



# The Commissioner's Report



**EXTRA!**

James E. McGreevey  
Governor

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Susan Bass Levin  
Commissioner

## New Jersey Counties and Towns Plan for a Smart Future

In a continued effort to promote regional planning in Governor McGreevey's Smart Growth agenda, DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin has awarded more than \$2 million in Smart Future Planning Grants, part of the Smart Future Initiative, since February 2003.

"Governor McGreevey recognizes that regional planning is integral to solving the problems of sprawl and overdevelopment in our State," Commissioner Levin said. "If we are to preserve our quality of life in New Jersey, we must work together to cooperatively and comprehensively manage growth. Smart Future grants make that possible."

New Jersey's Smart Future Initiative is funded through DCA's Office of Smart Growth and provides county and municipal planners access to state experts from DCA, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT), as well as funds to work with outside consultants with specialized expertise.

### Across the State

■ Ocean County was the first in New Jersey to participate in the Smart Future Initiative. The county's Northern Bay Corridor Regional Strategic Plan received \$375,000 in grants for the county and seven municipalities' coordinated plans to combat sprawl.

■ DCA awarded \$260,000 to benefit Union County and three of its towns. Their project will study development and redevelopment opportunities along the New Jersey Turnpike and the Routes 1 and 9 corridor from Rahway to Elizabeth, as well as develop individualized Smart Growth plans in both of these cities.

■ The \$458,000 in grants to Monmouth County will support the county and 40 municipalities in their regional smart growth initiatives. "Monmouth County truly serves as a microcosm of New Jersey's regional Smart Growth efforts," Commissioner Levin said.

■ Southern Bergen County's Regional Strategic Plan received \$415,000 that will support Bergen County and the 20 municipalities included in their regional Smart Growth initiatives.

■ Neptune Township and Asbury Park City became the first inter-municipal Smart Future Planning Grant awardees. They received an \$87,000 grant for their collaborative proposal to redevelop West Lake and Springwood Avenues.

■ Franklin Borough and Hardyston Township are using their \$40,000 grant for the Main Street Revitalization Strategy, which will recreate a downtown business district that serves both communities. The Main Street Revitalization Strategy will improve economic development efforts in the area, help to preserve historic structures in the region, and



*Governor McGreevey and Commissioner Levin, flanked by many New Jersey mayors, smile during one of their many Smart Growth announcements. They have been making announcements across the state to ensure New Jersey's towns and counties help plan for our future through regional planning strategies and utilizing Smart Growth tools.*

create more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly pathways along their Main Street.

■ Perth Amboy received \$125,000 to study Smart Growth opportunities for 72 acres of land in the city's northeast area, which is in need of redevelopment.

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### NJ Women's Roundtable

*Governor McGreevey addresses a small group of women during a meeting in Asbury Park. Facilitated through DCA, the governor is hosting small meetings around the state to speak with women business owners, advocates and others active in the community to hear their concerns and discuss what New Jersey is doing to support women.*





## Governor Restores Funding to Historic Sites

Commissioner Levin recently joined Governor McGreevey in Rutherford, where he signed legislation, S2620 and S2638, which provides \$11.3 million to the New Jersey Historic Trust to fund 60 historic preservation sites all over the state.

Governor McGreevey said that each community in our state has a story to tell, and we at DCA know that very well. DCA is working closely with the New Jersey Historic Trust to save New Jersey's historical treasures so that generations to come can enjoy them. We certainly are excited to have the New Jersey Historic Trust at DCA so we can all support the governor in his efforts to preserve our history while planning for our future.

## Take a Virtual Tour of New Jersey – DCA Style



During Commissioner Levin's budget testimonies, she took us on a virtual tour of New Jersey, highlighting DCA's events, accomplishments and activities in towns and cities across the state.

To enjoy the virtual tour, visit [www.nj.gov/dca/tour](http://www.nj.gov/dca/tour).

## Past and Present DCA Commissioner's Honored in Camden County



*The Boys and Girls Club of Camden County (BGCCC) honored former DCA Commissioner Melvin R. Primas, Jr. (l.), and current DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin (r.) as Man and Woman of the Year for their dedication and commitment to the organization. They posed here with Milford Liss (center), president and CEO of BGCCC, at the "Clubhouse" in Camden City, the building that Levin helped establish as a safe place for children to learn and grow. The Clubhouse serves as a youth center where up to 400 young men and women gather each day.*

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